

JPRS 79660

14 December 1981

Vietnam Report

No. 2329



FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

NOTE

JPRS publications contain information primarily from foreign newspapers, periodicals and books, but also from news agency transmissions and broadcasts. Materials from foreign-language sources are translated; those from English-language sources are transcribed or reprinted, with the original phrasing and other characteristics retained.

Headlines, editorial reports, and material enclosed in brackets [] are supplied by JPRS. Processing indicators such as [Text] or [Excerpt] in the first line of each item, or following the last line of a brief, indicate how the original information was processed. Where no processing indicator is given, the information was summarized or extracted.

Unfamiliar names rendered phonetically or transliterated are enclosed in parentheses. Words or names preceded by a question mark and enclosed in parentheses were not clear in the original but have been supplied as appropriate in context. Other unattributed parenthetical notes within the body of an item originate with the source. Times within items are as given by source.

The contents of this publication in no way represent the policies, views or attitudes of the U.S. Government.

PROCUREMENT OF PUBLICATIONS

JPRS publications may be ordered from the National Technical Information Service, Springfield, Virginia 22161. In ordering, it is recommended that the JPRS number, title, date and author, if applicable, of publication be cited.

Current JPRS publications are announced in Government Reports Announcements issued semi-monthly by the National Technical Information Service, and are listed in the Monthly Catalog of U.S. Government Publications issued by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

Correspondence pertaining to matters other than procurement may be addressed to Joint Publications Research Service, 1000 North Glebe Road, Arlington, Virginia 22201.

14 December 1981

VIETNAM REPORT

No. 2329

CONTENTS

MILITARY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC SECURITY

Campaign To Stamp Out Distortions, Rumors Launched (Editorial; HANOI MOI, 2 Oct 81)	1
Three Hoodlums Executed in Hanoi (HANOI MOI, 14 Oct 81)	3
Youths Working for Chinese Intelligence Arrested (Ha Phan; HANOI MOI, 2 Oct 81)	4
Office Worker Censured for Counterpropaganda Statements (HANOI MOI, 22 Sep 81)	5
Pedicab Peddler Arrested for Antirevolutionary Propaganda (Tran Phan; HANOI MOI, 2 Oct 81)	6

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, TRADE AND AID

SRV: Creative Labor, Cooperation With USSR (A. Stroganov; EKONOMICHESKAYA GAZETA, Jul 81)	8
Editorial Calls for More Sources of Export Goods (Editorial; HANOI MOI, 23 Sep 81)	11

PARTY ACTIVITIES AND GOVERNMENT

New VCP Members Recruited in Hanoi (Tran Trong Que; HANOI MOI, 14 Oct 81)	13
--	----

ECONOMIC PLANNING, TRADE AND FINANCE

Reasons for Steep Price Increases Explained (Tran Xuan Gia Interview; TIEN PHONG, 13-19 Oct 81)	15
State Price Commission Chairman Explains Retail, Service Charge Changes (Doan Trong Truyen Interview; NHAN DAN, 26 Oct 81)	18

Soc Son Market Management Unit Inspects Household Merchants (HANOI MOI, 17 Sep 81)	24
Hanoi Food Corporation Offers To Pay High for Pigs (HANOI MOI, 4 Sep 81)	25
Director of Grain Service Explains New Grain Prices (HANOI MOI, 5 Sep 81)	26
AGRICULTURE	
Incentive Policy for Vegetable Production Urged (Minh Ha; HANOI MOI, 15 Oct 81)	29
Mekong River Delta Agricultural Development Encountering Difficulties (Huu Tho; NHAN DAN, 26 Oct 81)	31
Inadequate Distribution of Fertilizer, Insecticide Discussed (HANOI MOI, 15 Oct 81)	33
HEAVY INDUSTRY AND CONSTRUCTION	
Policy Forbids Private Use of Electric Power To Make Ice (HANOI MOI, 22 Sep 81)	35
LIGHT INDUSTRY	
Massive Resignation of Technical Workers From Cooperatives (Minh Hoang; HANOI MOI, 5 Oct 81)	36
TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS	
Widespread Bribery, Theft at Haiphong Port Reported (Thai Thuyen; LAO DONG, 8 Oct 81)	37

MILITARY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC SECURITY

CAMPAIGN TO STAMP OUT DISTORTIONS, RUMORS LAUNCHED

Hanoi HANOI MOI in Vietnamese 2 Oct 81 pp 1, 4

[Editorial: "Smash Distorting Propaganda, Resolutely Oppose Acts of Spreading False Rumors"]

[Text] In building and defending the socialist fatherland, our people must regularly oppose aggressive acts and sabotage tricks of Chinese expansionists and American imperialists as well as other reactionary influences. One of the insidious sabotage tricks of the enemy is to disseminate distorting propaganda and false rumors, so as to shatter our fighting spirit, cause internal disunity, and subdue the people's minds, paving the way for opportunistic acts of political, economic, and military sabotage, etc.

Capitalizing on the low level of consciousness of a number of people, or on their pessimism about or their dissatisfaction with difficulties in production and living conditions, and on their inability to understand the nature and phenomena of the present juncture and to strive to overcome immediate obstacles, they distort policies, spread false rumors, and generate unfavorable public opinion on current events, such as the policies of market management, prices, drafting youths into the army, etc.

Moreover, they circulate books, newspapers, and cultural products of a reactionary and decadent nature, so as to poison those who long for the vulgar life and those who engage in illegal revelry, especially a number of backward youths. Because of the dangerous nature of antirevolutionary propagandists for the fatherland and people, our state has decided to condemn and severely punish their criminal acts.

Article 15 of the regulations on punishing antirevolutionary crimes asserts that the above acts are crimes of antirevolutionary propaganda and specifies various forms of punishment against "those who, for antirevolutionary purposes, have perpetrated the following crimes:

1. Propagandize against, incite the people against the people's democratic administration, and misrepresent the socialist regime;
2. Propagate enemy psy-war views, misconstrue the resistance against the United States, for national salvation, and for regaining national independence and unification, spread false rumors, cause confusion among the people;

3. Propagandize for the policy of enslavement and for the decadent culture of imperialism;
4. Write, print, circulate, and conceal books, newspapers, movies, and pictures or other materials having antirevolutionary contents and purposes."

The above crimes are punishable by imprisonment, from 2 to 12 years.

At present, the difficulty is how to distinguish between views and opinions coming from the enemy and those coming from backward people, or dissatisfied elements, or genuine complaintants, etc.; and it should be noted that the enemies themselves also have taken advantage of good and kind people to achieve their dark designs. We don't condemn people indiscriminately, hurriedly, and carelessly; but this does not mean that we should relent on this battlefield. The first and most effective thing for cadres and party members to do is to speak and work in accordance with the policies of the party and state organs and to make no irresponsible statements, nor say what they don't know well or what is not within their province. Besides, while listening to views and opinions of the masses, cadres and party members must, on the one hand, courteously and sincerely welcome accurate and constructive criticism and, on the other, they also must vigilantly sift wrong from right, so as to explain misunderstandings and misstatements of the people and to correct misdeeds. To do these things properly is to create conditions for assembling forces and mobilizing public opinion to struggle against those who deliberately distort policies and spread reactionary propaganda with vicious purposes. Leading echelons of the party; the administration; and mass organizations at organs, enterprises, and schools are bound not only to manage technical and productive work of cadres and workers but, also, to guide opinion within their units and to direct compliance with regulations on making statements and conducting propaganda within their units through the introduction into internal meetings of opportunities to disseminate policies, analyze views and words contrary to policies and guidelines, and also to properly solve contradictions and complaints in a resolute, patient, and judicious manner. In doing so, they will mobilize good people; win over backward people to their side; isolate reactionary elements; and create a healthy atmosphere, a rising emulation movement, and an untarnished living pattern within their units--all that is needed to defeat enemy psy-war.

9213

CSO: 4209/76

MILITARY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC SECURITY

THREE HOODLUMS EXECUTED IN HANOI

Hanoi HANOI MOI in Vietnamese 14 Oct 81 p 4

[Article: "Execution of Three Hoodlums"]

[Text] On 10 and 11 November, the Hanoi Municipal Council on Executing Court Sentences carried out the death penalty on three hoodlums, at two places in Dan Phuong District and Hoan Kiem Ward.

They were:

-- Le Van Thuan, born and domiciled in Thanh Mac hamlet, Thanh Da village, Phuc Tho district. Thuan and accomplices were convicted for murder and robbery. Thuan shot and seriously wounded Sister Hoang Thi Be in Tho An village, Dan Phuong district in an attempt to rob her of her bicycle at Tre slope (Dan Phuong village, Dan Phuong district) on 15 January 1980.

-- Nguyen Van Ha, residing at 14 Van Chi Lane (Bach Mai) and Duong Xuan Thanh, residing at 26 Thinh Yen street (Hai Ba Trung Precinct), were convicted for murder. On the afternoon of 25 April 1979, while committing robbery at Hang Dau street, they were observed by Pham Van An. Ha and Thanh stabbed the victim to death on the spot with sharp knives.

The execution of the death penalty on the three convicted criminals is a warning against those engaged in violent hooliganism and those perpetrating major crimes against the people.

9213

CSO: 4909/78

MILITARY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC SECURITY

YOUTHS WORKING FOR CHINESE INTELLIGENCE ARRESTED

Hanoi HANOI MOI in Vietnamese 2 Oct 81 p 2

[Article by Ha Phan: "Traitors to the Fatherland Nabbed"]

[Text] Nguyen Bac Ha, 20 years old, residing at 69 Giang Vo; Nguyen Dinh Hai, residing in Thanh Xuan Street; Nguyen Dinh Chiem, residing at 283 Kham Thien Market Lane; and Nguyen Ngoc Tao, living in Haiphong, were youths who refused to work, delighted in good food and clothing, and always dreamed of a luxurious and debauched life. They were imbued with reactionary and decadent manners and ideas. One of them became a hoodlum. Ha, Hai, Chiem, and Thao got together and discussed ways to flee abroad.

Carrying out this scheme, Nguyen Bac Ha met Bui Tuan Long (in Coc Leu, Lao Cai)--with whom he got acquainted in February 1979, at which time Long had been temporarily evacuated to Hanoi--and asked him to act as a guide. They sold three family bicycles for 1,700 dong and spent the money on train fares, travel expenses, and clothing, passing themselves off for Coc Leu evacuees on the way home for harvest crops. On the evening of 30 May 1980, the five reached the southern bank of the Red River (on the Vietnamese-Chinese border). Long, the guide, then returned to Hanoi while Ha, Hai, Chiem, and Tao crossed the river into Hekou. After 3 months' training at the Chinese intelligence organization, the four chaps were given some goods; and, disguised as smugglers, they were sent back to Vietnam for investigating our armed forces' border defense and control, enticing and urging people to flee to China, and robbing weapons from our armed forces, etc. They befriended two citizens in Muong Khuong District. But their scheme aborted because on 30 August 1980 they were discovered and nabbed by a control unit of the Muong Khuong public security section.

Based on the confessions of Ha, Hai, Chiem, and Tao, the investigating organ has traced back their involvement in crime to their families' lax management and education of children. They used to be away from home, roving around all day long. In addition, they were influenced by enemy psychological warfare. In light of this case, we should raise vigilance and resolutely smash enemy psychological warfare arguments, preventing our children, brothers, and sisters from blinding themselves to the truth and betraying the fatherland--just like the Ha, Hai, Chiem, Tao group.

9213

CSO: 4909/76

MILITARY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC SECURITY

OFFICE WORKER CENSURED FOR COUNTERPROPAGANDA STATEMENTS

Hanoi HANOI MOI in Vietnamese 22 Sep 81 p 1

[Article: "Hanoi Harbor Workers and Cadres Fight Counterpropaganda Line"]

[Text] Implementing Directive 07 of the Standing Committee of the Municipal VCP Committee on fighting against enemy psychological warfare and all counterpropaganda from bad elements, the Hanoi Harbor Enterprise recently held a session for cadres, workers, and officials to criticize Nguyen Khac Lieu, an employee of the labor and wages office of the enterprise, for certain statements contrary to propaganda on the line and policy of the Party and the State.

Each person harshly analyzed the harm of Lieu's statements, which caused suspicions and eroded trust in the Party and the State policies in the city on the part of a number of people around him. They recommended that the authorities take formal action to deal severely with Lieu.

The Hanoi Harbor Enterprise used the criticism session to instruct cadres, workers, and officials to keep on guard against the enemy's psychological warfare effort and to fight those who, like Nguyen Khac Lieu, spread distorted propaganda.

9830

CSO: 4209/73

MILITARY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC SECURITY

PEDICAB PEDDLER ARRESTED FOR ANTIREVOLUTIONARY PROPAGANDA

Hanoi HANOI MOI in Vietnamese 2 Oct 81 p 2

[Article by Tran Phan: "Disseminating Counterpropaganda"]

[Text] K was a resident of Thanh Luong Ward (Hai Ba Trung Precinct). During the temporary occupation of the capital by French imperialists, he sold medications on the curbs and at tramway stations. After the capital was liberated (1954), like other people having no professional skills and no stable life, he was employed by the administration as a railroad worker. But, some time later, he quit and engaged in miscellaneous work. To help him lead a normal life, in 1956 the local administration gave him land to build a house on and arranged for him to be employed at the Forestry Native Products Corporation. In 1965, along with his family he went to Phu Tho to build a new economic zone there; but later, abandoning Phu Tho, he returned to Hanoi. Nevertheless, the local administration gave him land to build a house on for the second time and allowed him to register as a permanent resident. From that time, he worked as a pedicab operator.

Although he was helped many times by the administration, economically and in his livelihood, K, a bad man by nature, turned to drinking and disturbing public order and security, ending up with publicly attacking administration guidelines, as well as active neighborhood cadres and party members. Taking advantage of the difficult situation of the nation's economy and living conditions and of a number of lingering negative aspects, he attacked party and state leadership.

He practiced very cunning tricks: While hurling insults, he probed the reaction of the people around him. At first, he spoke in a low voice and used innuendoes. If there were neither reactions nor protests, the following day he would lump negative phenomena such as bribery, theft of socialist property, difficult living conditions, etc., as part and parcel of our regime. He would put down a cup of alcohol near him while raising his voice, thus conveying to the people around him the false impression that he was babbling while drunk.

If such name calling was not suppressed, he would return the next day with louder insults. At first, he interspersed insulting his wife and children and insulting cadres, then, little by little, augmenting his pitch, he repeated almost textually the newscasts of enemy radio stations.

More brazenly, he villified the regime, party leadership, and leaders as well as our people. Outraged at his criminal acts, the people sent written complaints to the administration, suggesting harsh prosecution. He has been arrested and detained pending appearance before the court.

We condemn his reactionary acts and suggest that judiciary organs mete out harsh punishment. The above story has taught us to be vigilant about bad elements assembled in drinking sessions for counterpropaganda purposes. We must promptly struggle to condemn them or to keep responsible organs posted for stern prosecution.

9213

CSO: 4209/76

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, TRADE AND AID

SRV: CREATIVE LABOR, COOPERATION WITH USSR

Moscow EKONOMICHESKAYA GAZETA in Russian No 27, Jul 81 p 20

[Article by A. Stroganov under the heading "In the Cooperating Socialist Countries"]

[Text] On 2 July the Vietnamese nation marks the fifth anniversary of the day on which the Socialist Republic of Vietnam [SRV] was proclaimed. In the ensuing years, a united, independent and free Vietnam, under difficult conditions, has attained considerable advances in order to accomplish the tasks, set by the 4th Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV], of building socialism. Today, SRV workers show great enthusiasm in carrying on socialist competition for the prompt fulfillment of the state economic plan for 1981 and for creating a suitable atmosphere for the 5th Congress of the CPV.

In the past five-year period, the Vietnamese nation, under conditions of postwar hardship, characterized by the detrimental intrigues of the imperialist powers and the direct aggressive acts of the Beijing expansionists, has attained considerable advances in strengthening its socialist state, establishing the material and technological bases for socialism and consolidating the country's defense capability.

From 1976 to 1980, the gross agricultural product increased by 18.7 percent. An additional 650,000 hectares, of land were cleared.

The output of industrial products grew in 1980 by 17.3 percent in comparison with 1975; this figure includes the rise in machine-building by 60 percent.

Hundreds of new industrial enterprises and other economic units were built in the country.

Freight turnover increased considerably for all forms of transportation. An additional approximately 1,500 kilometers of railroad line and over 4,000 meters of mooring line were restored or constructed. Transportation was supplemented by 70 locomotives and almost 3,000 railroad cars and by seagoing vessels with a total freight capacity of 170,000 tons.

The number of qualified workers has grown. Over a fifth of those employed today have a higher or secondary specialized education. Much has been done, especially in the south of the country, to give the population employment; in that region, 3 million unemployed persons were counted after liberation.

In the south of Vietnam enterprises belonging to the predatory bourgeoisie have been nationalized. Private enterprises in industry, trade and the transportation sector have been converted to mixed state-private enterprises.

The most important economic and social tasks for the SRV in the next years, as was noted at the seventh session of the National Assembly (December 1980), are to increase production, to perfect administration, to stabilize and further develop the economy, to improve the life of the nation, to reinforce defense capacity, to continue to create the material and technological bases for socialism, to carry through the socialist reformation in the south of the country, to consolidate and perfect socialist relations of productions in the north and to consolidate relations, especially with Laos and Kampuchea, and establish cooperation with the Soviet Union and other member nations of the Council on Mutual Economic Assistance.

In 1981, it was planned that 15 million tons of food crops with the emphasis on rice would be harvested in the SRV (including 12 million tons of rice). In the animal husbandry area, it was foreseen that 1981, in comparison with 1980, would bring an increase by 2 percent in the number of buffalo and cows, by 3.3 percent in the number of swine and by 7 percent in the number of head of domestic fowl.

Basic branches of industry will continue to grow. In comparison with 1980, the production of electrical energy will grow by 6 percent and coal production by 10 percent. The output of phosphorous fertilizer will rise by 10 percent.

A considerable part of 1981 capital investments will be directed at agriculture in order to increase production of grain and food crops and those with uses in technology. In industry, particular attention will be given to the construction of the "Falay" electric station, coal mines and other important economic units. Capital investments in the transportation sector are being concentrated on expanding and constructing Haiphong harbor and a number of others.

The advances attained by the Vietnamese nation in the past five-year period are closely related to the fraternal assistance of the Soviet Union and other nations of socialist cooperation. The USSR and SRV are extending and consolidating close economic and commercial cooperation on the basis of full equality, mutual advantage and fraternal mutual assistance.

Last year marked the observance of the 25th year since the signing of the first trade agreement between the two countries and the first agreement stating the Soviet Union's intention of rendering aid in the Vietnamese economic recovery without repayment. In the ensuing period, about 200 industrial enterprises, state farms, institutions of learning and other units have been restored, reconstructed, and built under the assistance of the USSR in Vietnam.

At present the Soviet Union is cooperating with the SRV in building a whole series of industrial and other units. We must mention among these the hydroelectric station on the Mekong River, the largest such station in Southeast Asia with its capacity of two million kilowatts, the cement plant in Binshon with a productive capacity of 1.2 million tons per year, the "Hetam" coal mine with a 2.4 million ton annual capacity, the "Falay" heat and electric plant, the "Laokay" mine capable of producing up to 1.5 million tons annually of apatite concentrate, the diesel motor plant, the nitrogenous fertilizer and superphosphate plants and Haiphong harbor.

Prospects that economic cooperation would grow in scope and in depth were revealed in connection of a visit in the USSR of a party and government delegation from the SRV in November 1978. During the visit a Treaty on Friendship and Cooperation between the USSR and the SRV and a number of economic agreements were signed. In conformance with these, the USSR will render the SRV economic and technological assistance in the construction of large-scale economic enterprises with great significance for the further development of its economy. The Soviet Union will aid Vietnam in completing construction of a number of facilities, technological assistance for which was terminated by China. Agreement was also reached that the basic orientation of long-term scientific and technological collaboration would be established.

In a speech at the Kremlin on 3 July 1980, during the party and government delegation's visit to the USSR from the SRV, Comrade L. I. Brezhnev stated: "Now we have taken on much more extensive tasks than previously. It suffices to say that we are already able to undertake such a large-scale project as locating and obtaining rich petroleum and gas deposits on the South Vietnamese shelf."

Cooperation in this area is foreseen by the intergovernmental accord signed in July of last year. In Moscow on 19 June 1981 an agreement was signed on establishing a joint Soviet-Vietnamese enterprise for geological exploration and for obtaining petroleum and gas on the South Vietnamese continental shelf. At the same time the protocol was signed for an agreement and a plan undertaken in connection with complex geological exploration and minerals location by engineers and geologists. This agreement of great economic and political scope is described by the newspaper NYAN ZAN as opening the way to creation of a Vietnamese gas and petroleum industry, the development of which has a special place in the cause of the country's socialist industrialization.

The economic, scientific and technological cooperation of the SRV with other countries of the Council on Mutual Economic Assistance is being expanded; the SRV has been a member of the Council since 1978. In conformance with the Comprehensive Program of Socialist Economic Integration, the fraternal nations aid Vietnam in developing various branches of the economy. Thus, in January of this year, a general agreement on multifaceted cooperation on accelerating scientific and technological development in the SRV from the present until 1990 was signed by the interested member nations of the Council on Mutual Assistance.

The Secretary General of the CPV Central Committee, Comrade Le Zuan, appearing on 25 June at the first session of the 7th Convocation of the SRV National Assembly, expressed sincere gratitude to the socialist nations and primarily to the Soviet Union, which had rendered to Vietnam the greatest, most multifaceted and effective aid.

"In the future, too, we will continue extensive cooperation with the USSR, consolidating fraternal friendship with the Soviet people," declared Le Duan. "This is the foundation of our state and Party international policy and the fundamental position originating in the revolutionary nature of two Marxist-Leninist parties and two socialist states joined by common ideals. This is the basic strategic direction that will guarantee our nation new victories in the struggle to defend the homeland and to build socialism and consolidate the position of socialism on the Indochinese peninsula."

9582

CSO: 1825/8

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, TRADE AND AID

EDITORIAL CALLS FOR MORE SOURCES OF EXPORT GOODS

Hanoi HANOI MOI in Vietnamese 23 Sep 81 pp 1, 4

[Editorial: "Increase Sources of Export Goods"]

[Text] The accelerated pace of economic development has reached such a level in today's world that no country can exist without economic relations with the outside. Those economic relations take the form of import and export of goods and raw materials.

Over many years of economic construction and development, we have accumulated a great deal of experience in this matter. To import more, one must export more. Exports have the positive effect of disposing conditions for promoting production in a developing nation, updating equipment and industrial procedures to meet the constantly growing technological and artistic needs, improving the way trends and business are conducted, and providing the foundation for solutions to problems of wages and jobs and increasing the income of workers.

Looking at Hanoi's export operations, we see that some preliminary developments have taken place. In spite of many difficulties with raw materials, sources of export goods have increased. The usefulness of exports to imports and the good they do agricultural and industrial production have been more clearly defined. Economic zone planning and export goods planning are gradually being initiated. The ability to develop sources of export goods is still limited, however, because execution is not yet well organized, coordination among relevant sectors and between the national center and localities is still disjointed, and goods distribution is not yet rational in all aspects. Many goods with strong potential have not yet been fully exploited. Many new sources of goods have potential for development right here in the city, like polishing precious stones and separating mica into sheets for export, but no agency has come forward as yet to invest in such production.

One of our very basic advantages today is that awareness of the export effort is being intensified in all sectors and levels. But this unanimity should manifest itself in synchronized changes in such sectors as industry, handicrafts, agriculture, foreign trade, commerce, labor, finance, banking, and communications and transportation, with an aim to rapidly increase sources of export goods of ever finer quality and value.

The foreign trade sector, in its role as planner for the city, must carry out its function of researching and organizing sources of export goods in compliance with the planning guidance of the national center and of localities. Suburbs must diligently implement the practice of planning zones and agricultural products and raw materials already found locally or available nearby. Industrial and handicrafts sectors, with help, in the form of raw materials and capital, from such sectors as agriculture, foreign trade, and banking, struggle to raise the quality and quantity of goods and arrange production cooperation with a number of key items, like bicycles, electric fans, and watches. Rapidly develop traditional goods, like Bat Trang pottery. Start new trades with good potential. One thing urgently needed today in reference to export goods is to be very flexible and grasp the demands and desires of the world market, invest appropriately in technology and art (including fuel and packaging) to obtain high value with the use of only a small amount of raw materials or only ordinary materials. Mobilize production forces to participate in the effort to produce export goods, including free-lance craftsmen and artisans who mass-produce works or make them one at a time. In order to adequately compensate the producer, new policies must be applied to calculate pay bonuses and determine a price commensurate with the quality of the product they turn out. In the cooperation among sectors and levels and production cooperation among agencies, diligently avoid difficulties that should not occur and avoid useless, cumbersome red tape.

The rapid expansion of sources of export goods is the responsibility of all sectors, levels, and the people of the city. Let us resolutely struggle to make Hanoi a strong unit in the export effort, to make a positive contribution to the development of the Fatherland and to the development of the capital.

9830

CSO: 4209/73

PARTY ACTIVITIES AND GOVERNMENT

NEW VCP MEMBERS RECRUITED IN HANOI

Hanoi HANOI MOI in Vietnamese 14 Oct 81 p 2

[Article by Tran Trong Que: "In the First 9 Months of 1981, Hanoi Party Organization has Admitted 3,098 New Members"]

[Text] In the past 9 months, the Hanoi party organization has admitted 3,098 new members (with 50 percent from Youth Union members, 29 percent from workers directly involved in production, and 20 percent from scientific-technical cadres).

Despite a heavy work schedule and many difficulties in leadership over carrying out the political task and organizing the masses' life, party organizations have stepped up party development in each zone by opening training courses for recruits, in which special topics were discussed. Recently, the Gia Lam district party committee held a forum with the participation of party committee, trade union, and Youth Union secretaries as well as party recruits, to exchange experiences on how party recruits strive to improve themselves and how party committee echelons screen and admit new members. At the meeting, party recruits voiced their sincere wish to become members. Those admitted over the past 9 months are trusted and loved by the masses for their helpful work. Many comrades have been assigned important tasks at the primary level, working as deputy directors, supervisors and deputy supervisors, bureau chiefs and deputy bureau chiefs, production unit chiefs, etc. Due attention notwithstanding, party development work still is uneven. Only about 30 percent of basic organizations have been doing this work. The reason is that party committee echelons, especially at the chapter level, have not yet thoroughly and deeply understood Directive . of the Standing Committee of the Municipal Party Committee, as well as Directive 72 of the Secretariat of the Party Central Committee. As a result, in guidance work, they have not tied party building closely to carrying out the political task, blaming a very heavy schedule for their failure to develop the party. Owing to a poor spirit of responsibility, they have had no plans for concrete and regular party development. They lacked control and supervision and even showed fears of encountering difficulties in investigating party recruits. Mass organizations such as trade unions and the Youth Union, from the city down to the primary level, have pledged to take part in developing the party; however, their movement lacked steadiness.

If party committee echelons do not urgently overcome the above shortcoming and concentrate on guidance, the municipal task of recruiting new members for 1981

will achieve low results and will not meet the requirements of the municipal political task.

Notice 11 TB/TU dated 12 May 1951 of the Standing Committee of the Municipal Party Committee clearly states, "We are determined, not to let party recruiting task slip behind that of last year, but rather to strive to do better, both quantitatively and qualitatively," (in 1980, the entire city admitted 5,053 party members).

At present, with just 2 months left from the year, we should concentrate on strictly guiding this work with the following activities:

-- Party chapters should look again at the 1981 recruits to see whether they still meet the standards, then report the findings to the chapters for discussion and decisionmaking before inviting comments from the masses. In case these recruits still meet the standards, individual files should be established for party chapters to consider, then for higher party committee echelons to finally approve.

-- Party committee echelons should take active measures to help chapters carry out screening procedures, especially the investigation of recruits. Party committee echelons should discuss with the administration and mass organizations to create all conditions for party members in charge of investigation to do their work promptly and successfully.

9213

CSO: 4209/78

ECONOMIC PLANNING, TRADE AND FINANCE

REASONS FOR STEEP PRICE INCREASES EXPLAINED

Hanoi TIEN PHONG in Vietnamese 13-19 Oct 81 p 1, 2

[Interview with Tran Xuan Gia, State Price Commission member, by unnamed reporter, date and place not specified]

[Text] [Question] Please explain why the state decided recently to adjust prices on many categories of goods with rather high increases?

[Answer] Prior to the recent adjustment decision, our price system was based on raw materials and agricultural products purchasing prices, which were still low at the time. In reality, over the past several years these prices have increased five and six-fold. Prices on imported supplies and equipment have also gone up. At present, we no longer import supplies and equipment at 1958-1960 prices, but rather at new higher ones. Purchasing prices of the capitalist market are even 30 to 40 percent higher than that of the Council for member nations of the Mutual Economic Assistance. In fact, in terms of Vietnamese currency, prices on imported goods have increased approximately ten-fold.

Moreover, pricing policy must also take into account currency purchasing power and resolution of relationships between accumulation and consumption, between industrial production and agricultural production, between supply capabilities and commodity consumption needs, between living conditions of various population strata, between state-directed prices and free-market prices, etc.

These are very complex economic and social problems, and since all these factors have undergone big changes recently, the state urgently had to adjust prices upward to make them reasonable.

Despite the adjustment, the state continues to spend billions of dong per year compensating for losses on commodities essential to the livelihood of workers, civil servants, the armed forces, etc. The state applies high price policy only to high grade and luxury goods, and to goods subject to restricted consumption.

[Question] Please tell us specifically how many types of retail prices on consumer goods we now have, and how we apply them?

[Answer] At present, the state price system includes 3 types of retail prices on consumer goods, corresponding with 3 commodity funds, and following 3 formulas of distribution to different consumers in conformity with state consumption policy.

1. Supply prices on essential commodities for the armed forces, workers, civil servants, college, high school and vocational school students, etc, and other policy objectives are regulated by Directive 109-CTTW of the Party Central Committee Political Bureau. These are low prices, closely linked to salary, and change only when pay rates change. For instance: Rice, .40 dong per kg; bicycle tire, 11 dong apiece, etc.

2. New state-directed retail prices covers commodities most of which are specified in Decision 120-CP of the Council of Ministers on 29 May 1981.

Formerly, these prices were usually called prices guaranteeing [providing a profit for] business. For instance: Rice, 5 dong per kg; bicycle tire, 100 dong apiece, etc.

These new directed retail prices apply to commodities essential and important to the entire people and are used to guide the exchange relationships in two-way contracts with farmers. Hence, they are state-directed unified and stable prices, which no one can arbitrarily change.

3. Commercial business retail prices apply only to a number of commodities subject to restricted consumption, such as cigarettes, alcohol, coffee, etc, and high-grade, and luxury goods. At present, in scattered places there is the tendency to include on the above list a number of commodities essential to the people's life. The state has issued directives to correct this phenomenon.

Retail prices on the various categories of commodities have been adjusted for some months.

Since October 1981, the state has adjusted purchase prices and wholesale prices. This adjustment involves only state-operated and collective economy sectors, and does not involve the retail price system which the state has just adjusted. Hence, rumors that the state will raise retain prices on consumer goods even more are not true.

[Question] And now, how does the state adjust purchase prices of agricultural products, and purchase prices as well as contract-order prices of handicraft products?

[Answer] Along with the adjustment of retail prices on industrial consumer goods, since October 1981 the state has increased purchase prices of agricultural products five and six-fold in the north and Former Zone 5. This is a big effort aimed an encouraging development of agricultural production, mobilizing peasants to save on consumption and sell more products to the state. At the same time, this price adjustment provides the opportunity for rebuilding the rate exchange relationships between industry and agriculture so as to fit in with the revolutionary situation and tasks in the new stage, and to accommodate

the exchange and trade relationships between our country and other ones in the world. This adjustment also has the effect of increasing agricultural product exports, as well as commodity and supply imports, in support of production and the entire people's livelihood--especially agricultural production and the farmers' livelihood (fertilizer, insecticide, agricultural machinery, etc).

As for handicrafts and small industry production, the state on the basis of recently-adjusted retail prices on consumer goods and wholesale prices on supplies and raw materials, has issued directives to redefine the income levels, contractual prices, and product purchase prices of these two production sectors.

[Question] Please tell us about the impact of the current price adjustment on production and the people's livelihood?

[Answer] First of all, we should affirm that the central goal of our party and state economic policies is to step up production, develop the national economy, and ensure and stabilize the people's livelihood.

A new thing in the current price policy is to gradually eliminate the price support system, to encourage individuals and units to do excellent production work, achieve high productivity, overfulfill state plans and strictly honor economic contracts with the state. This is a positive effect of the price adjustment, and it contributes to promoting production development.

The state has also carried out synchronized measures to raise salaries, improve distribution and circulation, increase purchase prices on agricultural products, handicraft products, etc. These efforts all have the effect of encouraging production and ensuring stable living conditions for the people.

Price policy is very important, but it can generate favorable effects only on the basis of an evenly and securely developed national economy, and with the simultaneous implementation of other economic policies of the party. Especially in the present situation of our country, carrying out that price policy involves a complex struggle, which must be tied closely to proper distribution and circulation, market management, and fighting crooked merchants and speculators who hoard goods, raise and dictate prices, etc.

Members of the Youth Union and other youths are assault combatants on the productive labor front, and also on the front of struggle for price stabilization and market management.

9213

CSO: 4209/66

STATE PRICE COMMISSION CHAIRMAN EXPLAINS RETAIL, SERVICE CHARGE CHANGES

Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 26 Oct 81 pp 1, 4

/Interview with Doan Trong Truyen, Chairman of State Price Commission, by NHAN DAN: "Concerning Changes in Retail and Service Charges"; date and place not specified/

/Text/ NHAN DAN interviewed Doan Trong Truyen, Chairman of the State Price Commission, concerning a number of problems involving changes in retail and service charges. Below are the questions and replies:

/Question/ Would you let us know your opinions on the policy basis for changing the retail and service charges during the past few months?

/Answer/ Our system of consumer goods retail and service charges was formed during the years from 1958 to 1960. To the present time (before the recent charge adjustments), they have basically remained stable and have had an active effect in assisting to stabilize the lives of the laboring people. This was an extremely great effort by our party and people under the conditions of a still undeveloped economy, protracted war and continuous natural disasters. However, they are no longer suitable and have caused many negative effects. Therefore, the recent improvement of the consumer goods retail and service charge system was an urgent requirement. This adjustment was closely coordinated with other methods aimed at developing an active effect on production, stabilizing living conditions, redistributing the national income on a total society scale, assisting in gradually resolving supply and demand relations and struggling to stabilize the market, prices and national finance.

Directive 109 of the Political Bureau stated: Price adjustment relies on the principle of "consumer goods retail prices must be limited to the extent that they cancel and compensate for losses of the consumer goods in general and assure the state a business profit; and must originate from a policy of use consistent with actual conditions at the present time depending upon each group of products and each consumer for which the state sets retail prices along a course of little accumulation or at cost for essential goods and a higher accumulation for other types."

Based on the directive of the Political Bureau, the Council of Ministers issued Decision 220-CP on 29 May 1981 to adjust retail prices as has been recently achieved in accordance with the following primary policy:

Essential goods supplied the armed forces, workers, civil servants (consisting of retired individuals and those unable to work due to poor health), and students of high-level colleges and vocational schools will remain as before. These types of goods are those supplied at a fixed quantity or not at a fixed quantity. Goods at a fixed quantity are those such as grain, fish sauce, meat, fish, sugar, monosodium glutamate, fuel, cloth and laundry soap. Goods not supplied at a fixed quantity are those such as bicycle spare parts (tubes, tires and sprocket wheel chains), straw mats, water-proof nylon cloth, small table fans, thermos bottle liners and tea.

The supply of vegetables and salt will be assured but the selling price will be adjusted and they will be counted as part of the grain subsidy as previously done.

A number of types of essential goods such as grain, milk for children and the sick, writing paper, textbooks, etc. will be sold at cost by the state and many types will be sold at a loss.

For other consumer goods, the price will generally assure compensation for production and circulation expenses with great or little accumulation in accordance with each type aimed at assuring the requirements of expanded reproduction.

High-level goods will be sold at a price with a high accumulation level in order to regulate income and guide consumption.

/Question/ Under conditions in which the economy is still encountering difficulties, we also have many types of prices applied to other recipients. Would you let us know about those types of prices?

/Answer/ The state is carrying out a policy of distribution to consumers in accordance with three different types of prices (as pointed out by Directive 208-CT on 20 October 1981 of the Chairman of the Council of Ministers concerning retail and service charge directed price system management):

a. The supplied price is closely connected with wages and is applied in the retail sale of essential goods supplied at a fixed quantity or not at a fixed quantity to the armed forces, workers, civil servants, students and other recipients supplied in accordance with policy as stipulated in Decision 218-CP of the Council of Ministers.

The amount of trade in these goods accounts for a fairly large percentage of the expenditures of worker and civil servant families.

b. The new retail directed prices of the state are applied to those types of goods essential to the lives of all the people; goods used for exchange in two-way economic contracts with producers (farmers, salt producers, fishermen, handicraftsmen, etc.); goods supplied for the requirements of enterprises, hospitals, state agencies and recipients receiving in-kind subsidies precisely in accordance with the system; and important goods sold the armed forces, workers, civil servants, students, etc. in excess of those goods sold at the supplied price.

The level of these types of prices for primary goods was recently stipulated in the appendices of Decision 220-CP on 29 May 1981 and has been stabilized. Commercial organizations must sell to the recipients above at precisely the stipulated price. This matter is extremely important because the actual income of the workers and civil servants as well as the farmers and other levels of labor depends to a decisive degree on the supplied price and the state retail price for about 40 goods of types a and b

for which the prices have been stabilized. We will announce the names and specific price levels for these types of goods in order that everyone will know and join in coordinated efforts for good achievement.

c. The commercial business price is applied to a number of types of goods which are not essential or important such as high-level expensive types (good wrist watches, velvet, silk cloth, good shoes and sandals, etc.). These prices must be actively supervised depending on the supply and demand situation and the actual price fluctuations on the market.

Application of commercial business prices is extremely essential under conditions in which the incomes of the various levels of people still vary greatly; because part of the people have incomes from private economy and trade on the free market, their buying power is high. These prices are used to regulate income, control consumption and increase state revenue while simultaneously having an effect of resisting speculation and illegal trade.

The state advocates reserving essential and important goods to production and life to supply and sell the armed forces, workers and civil servants, and to exchange with producers in collective areas and individuals by two-way contracts. Under conditions in which these goods are still scarce, the state does not advocate normal sales at the commercial business price because in such a manner, speculative resale would occur. An extremely important problem is that distribution must be made to commodity funds in order to answer other requirements and to apply other types of prices. In the spirit of that instruction of the Standing Committee of the Council of Ministers, responsible sectors at the present time are coordinating to classify the commodity funds above and to assure proper achievement of pricing policy as well as the commodity distribution policy in general of the state.

Question How have the price changes been handled in comparison with the incomes of the different classes of the people?

Answer Adjustment of retail prices goes hand in hand with calculation of the cost of living and the actual wages of the workers and civil servants to assure there is no reduction on the basis that the prices of supplied goods remain unchanged and the prices of other important goods are adjusted upward and maintained with no sales at a variable commercial business price. In accordance with this method of calculation, the cost of living index doubles after price adjustment and consequently, the government advocates a one-time basic wage subsidy.

Resolving the problem of the basic standard of living is on the basis of developing production with increasing productivity and efficiency. In accordance with Directive 109 of the Political Bureau, along with wage compensation, in order to assure the standard of living of the wage earner, an initial important problem is how to assure that workers have sufficient jobs and to expand the scope of the contract and piece-work wages system in a proper manner in order for the workers to have productive jobs and from there to raise incomes; at the same time, we must assure the supply of a sufficient fixed quantity at stable prices of essential goods as stipulated; and management must be strengthened with efforts made toward stabilizing market prices because a portion of the wages of the workers and civil servants must still be used to buy goods on the free market.

Concerning the farmers (or fishermen and salt producers), the primary problem is the relative value between the purchase price of agricultural products and the sales price of industrial goods. During more than the past 20 years, agricultural goods prices have increased about 2.5 times but basic industrial goods prices have not increased and the relative value is excessively reduced. It is now necessary to adjust this relative value by returning nearly to the years between 1960 and 1964, a period in which the economy and production were relatively stable, the living standards of the farmers and workers were assured with a rational difference, the national economy had an internal accumulation (about 16 to 17 percent of the national income), the state budget was basically balanced and the market and prices were stable.

/Question/ How is adjustment of wholesale prices related to retail prices?

/Answer/ Wholesale prices are a type of price applied within the national economy and improvement of the wholesale price system is aimed at:

Allowing wholesale prices of various types of products, especially production materials, to compensate for production and import expenses, to produce the necessary accumulation and to create conditions for supporting production development. Depending on the type of material, such as material to support agriculture, the state under necessary circumstances can compensate for losses.

Strengthening management and economic accounting, encouraging the use of materials in an economical and effective manner, using replacement materials and replacing imported materials with domestic materials.

Encouraging promotion of the scientific and technical revolution, increasing product quality, replacing equipment and machinery, etc.

One of the important principles presented while establishing a new wholesale price system is to assure that the state's new directive retail price system is not changed, creating a complex adverse effect on all other price systems.

The Council of Ministers has assigned responsibility to ministries and local government echelons for leading primary level production and business units in actively striving to reduce production costs and circulation expenses in order that with the new directed retail prices, the new wholesale prices will generally compensate for expenses and produce an accumulation. Under cases in which efforts have been made in many methods but losses still occur, the business agency must formulate plans suggesting that the state examine loss compensation. Therefore, regardless of the circumstances, first of all, the new retail prices cannot be changes without a decision from the Council of Ministers.

A problem requiring special concern here is to strengthen management, increase labor productivity and reduce production costs on the basis of well-achieving a system of conservation in production and business. The establishment and satisfactory achievement of economic and technical norms in material, labor and capital waste right in the primary level production unit is an extremely urgent requirement at the present time. Experience has indicated that wherever there is appropriate concern, it is possible to reduce a fairly high proportion of production costs.

The action of a number of primary level production and business units in adjusting wholesale prices to arbitrarily raise retail prices in excess of state-approved price

levels is contrary to principle. On the free market, some merchants have taken advantage of the opportunity to raise retail prices and have not carried out the price posting system. These are erroneous actions and must be resolutely opposed.

/Question/ As we know, there are presently many cases in which the retail prices stipulated by the state are not being properly executed, creating harm to the interests of the consumer. How will this be overcome?

/Answer/ Generally speaking, sectors and local areas are striving to strictly comply with the various types of directed retail prices consisting of supply prices, new directed retail prices and commercial business prices in accordance with the spirit of decisions of the Council of Ministers. However, under conditions in which goods are scarce, the free market is still widespread, prices are unstable and uniform pricing methods have not yet been promptly implemented, the supervision of specific price types is still extremely complex and a number of shortcomings still exist. A number of cases have occurred in which the prices of goods within the purview of directed prices have been set in excess of state-imposed prices and to nearly the level of market prices. This has created a harmful effect on the living standards of the laborer, especially the worker and civil servant. Therefore, the Standing Committee of the Council of Ministers has decreed: The prices in Decision 220-CP are approved prices; sectors and local areas must strictly comply with no changes made without a new decision from the Council of Ministers. When substantiating these approved prices, it is necessary to precisely follow price formation principles and assure that approved and specific prices are in harmony with each other with rational differences and no disguised price increases. Sectors and local areas which recently stipulated prices not in keeping with Decision 220-CP must make corrections. They must assure that the consumer can purchase state goods precisely in accordance with the retail prices stipulated and announced by the official echelons and agencies of the state. Business organizations guaranteed a number of rational discounts in the circulation steps can add no additional surcharges to the state retail price. If the state-directed price is still lower than the free market price, a study must be made in appropriate distribution formulas in which decision-making echelons assure that state goods are distributed to the proper consumer precisely in accordance with policy without speculation or unfair advantage.

/Question/ Price stabilization is always an important factor in stabilizing production and assuring the standard of living. Would you give us a number of opinions on the responsibility of state agencies and of every individual on what to do in assisting in this important work?

/Answer/ Prices are an integrated economic problem, extremely complex and related to all activities of the national economy. Conditions for firmly stabilizing prices are developed production, increased labor productivity and abundant quality goods to answer the requirements of society.

Under conditions of the economy at the present time while production is still difficult and the economy is still unbalanced, price stabilization is an extremely difficult and complex mission demanding the synchronized effort of all sectors and echelons and every individual aimed at the following primary objectives:

Promoting production and fully utilizing labor, arable land and exploitable materials and supplies to produce much property for supplying the needs of society.

Strengthening and improving economic management, achieving conservation and assuring production with productivity, quality and efficiency.

On the basis of production development, balancing finance, banking, increased revenue, expense reduction and a balanced budget.

Carrying out good commerce; struggling to overcome every negative occurrence to concentrate the source of goods in the hands of the state; and through socialist commerce, firmly distributing goods precisely in accordance with policy to the proper recipient and resisting collusion, corruption and unfair advantage.

Strengthening market management, expanding the socialist commerce battlefield, resisting speculation, smuggling and illegal trade, well-achieving the market management systems and not arbitrarily setting prices and changing state-directed prices; and achieving the price discount system by selling goods at discount prices. Every individual has a responsibility to regularly supervise compliance with the price policies and directed prices of the state. The state applies strict disciplinary measures in cases of price discipline violation, etc.

The State Price Commission, ministries and provincial, city and special zone people's committees are assigned to set specific prices and when deciding prices, must totally weigh all production, life, political and social aspects while simultaneously following price formation principles and methods, assuring that the prices stipulated by the Council of Ministers and sectors and echelons form a system assuring unified accounting and develop the level effect of prices in economic leadership.

The State Price Commission is an agency assisting the Council of Ministers in unified management of the total retail and service charge system. We will increase inspection and supervision to promptly discover cases in which supervision or compliance are not precisely in accordance with state decisions; under necessary conditions, we can request suspension of compliance in order to report to the Council of Ministers for an appraisal and decision.

We will join sectors in studying the announcement of new directed prices in the retail and service charges set by state agencies in order to create conditions for cadres, troops, laboring people and organizations to participate in supervising compliance.

Every individual producer and consumer with the status of a socialist collective owner has the responsibility of assisting in establishing the new price system and stabilizing prices by: striving in production labor, working with productivity, quality and efficiency and actively participating in the struggle against every negative occurrence in society, especially in the state-commerce distribution system and market management to resist speculation and illegal trade.

7300

CS0: 4209/96

ECONOMIC PLANNING, TRADE AND FINANCE

SOC SON MARKET MANAGEMENT UNIT INSPECTS HOUSEHOLD MERCHANTS

Hanoi HANOI MOI in Vietnamese 17 Sep 81 p 1

[Article: "Ba Dinh and Soc Son Increase Market Management"]

[Excerpt] The market management unit of Soc Son Ward is still conducting regular checks on merchant households in the service industry in performance of its duty to uphold policy on pricing. When the unit arrives on site, it coordinates with the local market management team in order, with the team, to inspect, to instruct, and to deal with cases of law-breaking. Over the past month, the unit punished 526 violations. Among them were 276 cases of practicing business without registering; 186 cases of buying, selling, and transporting goods unlawfully; 83 cases of failure to post prices or selling at unposted prices.

The market management unit's inspections also uncovered nine violations that led to the arrest of trade personnel in Kim Hoa Pharmacy and Soc Son and Kim Anh sundry goods stores for illegally passing goods to merchants.

9830

CSO: 4209/73

ECONOMIC PLANNING, TRADE AND FINANCE

HANOI FOOD CORPORATION OFFERS TO PAY HIGH FOR PIGS

Hanoi HANOI MOI in Vietnamese 4 Sep 81 p 3

[Text] The Hanoi Food Corporation will pay high prices at State stores for pigs on the hoof.

Purchase Prices

Pigs weighing over 35 kg, but under 50 kg, will be purchased at 22 dong per kilogram.

Pigs from 50 kg to under 60 kg: 24 dong per kilogram.

From 60 to under 70 kg: 25 dong per kilogram.

From 70 to under 80 kg: 26 dong per kilogram.

Pigs weighing 80 kg or more: 27 dong per kilogram.

Place to notify that one has pigs to sell: Ngoc Ha, Chau Long, Nga Tu So, Kham Thien, Cho Mo, or Le Quy Don food store, or the office located at 10 Cao Thang Street.

The prospective seller should clearly write his name, address, and the pig's weight on a piece of paper and deposit the paper in the mailbox of one of the stores above. An employee of the store will come out to the house to arrange a time for the pig to be picked up.

9830

CSO: 4209/73

ECONOMIC PLANNING, TRADE AND FINANCE

DIRECTOR OF GRAIN SERVICE EXPLAINS NEW GRAIN PRICES

Hanoi HANOI MOI in Vietnamese 5 Sep 81 p 3

[Interview with the Director, Hanoi Grain Service: "What Will the New Methods for Supplying Grain Be Like?"; names of participants, date, and time not given]

[Text] A correspondent of HANOI MOI recently had the opportunity to interview the Director of the Hanoi Grain Service regarding procedures and methods of supplying grain in the near future. Following are the questions and answers.

Question: According to the new resolution of the Council of Ministers on procedures and methods of supplying goods, the State is maintaining the present supply price for grain, but there also will be a commercial price. Would you please explain this matter, Comrade?

Answer: With a view to constantly improving distribution and circulation, the Council and Ministers issued a resolution, on 20 May 1981, on procedures and methods of supplying goods for 1981. According to that resolution, the State guarantees that it will continue to supply grain at the present supply price to the following categories of people:

- a) workers, State officials (including retirees, the disabled, and students in college, in the university, or in technical or vocational high school--in other words, those receiving wages and sustenance from the State);
- b) fathers, mothers, spouses, or children of workers or officials (i.e., their dependents) who are no longer able to work or not yet of working age (or are going to school, or have just graduated and have not yet been placed in a job) and live with a worker or official, are completely or principally dependent on the wages of the worker or official, and are being supplied grain by the State at the supply price;
- c) wounded soldiers; elderly parents, spouses, or underaged children of deceased veterans; orphans, the elderly, or the physically handicapped with nowhere to turn for support and shelter, and other persons being cared for socially in institutions administered by the State and being furnished grain by the State;

d) those to whom the revolution owes a debt, seriously wounded soldiers who have come home to be with their families; parents, spouses, or children who are survivors of deceased veterans and are too old or too young to work, have nowhere to turn for support and shelter, receive monthly support, and are being issued grain by the State at the supply price; the old and handicapped who have nowhere to turn for support and shelter, presently receive monthly support from the State, and are furnished grain.

To others who have been buying grain at the supply price for a long time, but do not belong to the category of persons qualifying for receipt of grain at the supply price, the State promises to continue to supply grain according to State procedures and standards, but at a newly prescribed price. Grain needed by agencies, enterprises, work sites and State farms, hospitals, etc., for production and operations also will be available at that price.

Question: Please tell us the reason for the price difference, Comrade.

Answer: The first observation to make is that the new prescribed price is the bottom price; it nearly exactly reflects the socialist labor costs of production and circulation of grain. Actually, workers and officials also pay those prices for grain from the State; but, because the wage system has not yet been improved, we are temporarily extending supply prices, which workers and officials consider an element of the wage system, in order to stabilize living conditions. Thus, only those living on a wage and living expenses or on monthly benefits, as described above, buy grain at supply costs, and others pay the new prescribed price. Among the latter are people engaged in handicrafts production and those raising vegetables or industrial crops in an economic relationship with the State.

Question: What assurance is there that this will not have an adverse effect on the income of people engaged in handicrafts production and of those raising vegetables or industrial crops in an economic relationship with the State?

Answer: To stabilize living conditions of the worker, the resolution of the Council of Ministers clearly stated, regarding people raising vegetables for the cities or engaged in handicrafts production, that, when the State adjusts the price of grain sales, it also adjusts purchasing prices and contract work rates accordingly. Based on calculations of the municipal agencies' contract work rates, prices paid by the State for products bought from handicrafts cooperatives and production teams and for industrial crops bought by the State from agricultural cooperatives will be adjusted up by multiples of the present price. Not only will this compensate for adjustments in grain prices; the producers will in fact make more profit. In other words, the producers will not be adversely affected.

Question: In your opinion, Comrade, what must all levels and sectors, mass organizations, and the people do to fully and precisely implement this resolution of the government?

Answer: Though all levels and sectors, mass organizations, and the people are responsible for carrying out this resolution, directly responsible are the grain

sector at all government levels and those who buy grain for the State. In my opinion, there are three big jobs to be done carefully during the preparation phase as well as in the process of organizing and implementing this important resolution.

a) Concentrate propaganda work on clearly explaining to each person that the objectives of adjusting the price of grain are to accelerate production; stabilize living conditions; stabilize market prices; and, especially, stimulate the production of grain and stabilize living conditions of workers, officials, and other labor personnel. This job can be accomplished only if the government enjoys the active participation of mass organizations.

b) Correctly differentiate the category of personnel to whom grain is to be sold at the supply price, that of personnel to whom it is to be sold according to the new guidelines, and that of persons to whom it is to be sold at commercial prices. This is not the job of government at wards, districts, subwards, and villages nor is it purely the functional responsibility of the grain sector. Rather, it is primarily a responsibility of the masses. All aspects, from declaring the number of people in the household and the current standards of supply to realistically and accurately categorizing each household and each member, require active participation of mass organizations and the people, most directly in subwards, villages, and neighborhood cells.

c) Regulate the supply and business store network, preparing business operations and material conditions with a view to providing good service to the consumer as well as strictly managing the State's grain.

Under the direct guidance of the people's committees of the city, of wards, and of districts, the grain sector is preparing to promptly initiate the new supply procedures and methods, thereby contributing to an increase in production, stabilization of living conditions, stabilization of the market, and accomplishing the mission of improving goods distribution and circulation.

9830

CSO: 4209/73

AGRICULTURE

INCENTIVE POLICY FOR VEGETABLE PRODUCTION URGED

Hanoi HANOI MOI in Vietnamese 15 Oct 81 pp 1, 3

[Article by Minh Ha: "Problems Needing Solution in This Year's Winter-Spring Vegetable Crop"]

[Excerpts] Tu Liem District has many experiences in intensive cultivation of "high grade" vegetables. Dich Vong is the only cooperative in the entire district always taking the lead, not only in reaching the finish line ahead of schedule but, also, in helping other cooperatives. During the recent winter-spring vegetable season, Tu Liem District has strongly expanded the field cabbage area from 50 hectares (in 1979) to 100 hectares, and brought up watercress cultivation to one-half of the entire area planted in watercress in the suburban area. India mustard, bindweed, etc., are planted in great quantities and their yield is fairly high; however, district plans are not fulfilled. The main reason is that Tu Liem is still unable to manage its products. Although following the product contracting system, a number of cooperatives in the district have not fulfilled plans for supplying vegetables inasmuch as loopholes in management have led to their diversion to the free market.

In comparison with other districts, Gia Lam District has a big vegetable potential. Its tendency is to increase the vegetable area during the winter-spring season--30 more hectares of cabbage and 50 more hectares of carrot. As a result, it has overfulfilled the year's plan by about 3,000 tons, creating strong momentum for the coming year. But, owing to geographical obstacles, Gia Lam always encounters difficulties in shipping vegetables into the city. At places and times, fairly great quantities of vegetables have to be destroyed. This is a problem which the Vegetable-Flower-Fruit Corporation, as well as the district, is still unable to solve appropriately. During the first 6 months of this year, only more than 6,000 tons of vegetables--out of 12,000 tons sold by Gia Lam--reached the city.

What Needs to be Solved During this Winter-Spring Vegetable Season?

This year's winter-spring vegetable season arrived in the suburbs in a situation entirely different from that of other years. In terms of requirements, planting was slow. In general, weather was favorable at the beginning of the season; and, in spite of drought, not many young plants already planted have been lost, giving impetus to winter-spring vegetable cultivation. Favorable

weather notwithstanding, sowing and planting were slow. Cooperative members worked sluggishly, displaying a wait-and-see attitude, because a number of new policies on prices and material supplies in vegetable areas have not yet been proclaimed. Some cooperatives even destroyed entire vegetable areas to plant rice or planted rice in paddy fields and vegetables outside the fields. The tendency to grow short-term vegetables is clearly visible. Delays in supplying and distributing vegetable strains caused delays in the planting schedule. Sales of turnip-cabbage seeds began in July, but the planting season ends by the end of October. As of now, cooperatives have received just 5 quintals of seeds--instead of the expected 2 tons. Only 1 ton of butter bean strains has been sold--instead of 10 tons as planned. Carrot seeds enjoyed the briskest sale with all 12 tons being sold.

Below are figures reflecting delays in production: Cabbage sowing-planting, 50 hectares behind (the planting season ended by 5 October); carrot sowing-planting, 100 hectares behind; green cabbage, about 70 hectares behind; tomatoes, just more than 10 percent of last year's area. At the end of September, Gia Lam counted only 30 hectares of field cabbage, instead of 100 hectares as planned. Delays in transportation were amplified by snags over weighing at reception centers, classifying vegetables, etc.

A look at the main vegetable species in this vegetable season shows that short-term crops are increasingly numerous but not diversified. This is contrary to Decision 16 of the Party Municipal Committee calling for ensured plan fulfillment in terms of quantity, quality, categories, and time.

So, what needs to be solved during this vegetable season? In our opinion, the important thing is policy. Recently, the Thanh Tri People's Committee issued a directive on adjusting vegetable purchasing and selling prices and on supplying materials and grain to vegetable growers. This directive should be promptly disseminated into basic installations so that the people can produce with confidence. The new policy will be a lever for stepping up production. And all of this will come true if guidance is resolute and well oriented and if a propaganda effort is conducted to urge cooperative members to show strict compliance.

AGRICULTURE

MEKONG RIVER DELTA AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT ENCOUNTERING DIFFICULTIES

Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 26 Oct 81 p 2

/Article by Huu Tho: "The Mekong River Delta in 1981"/

/Excerpts/ The farmers in the Mekong River Delta to the present time are still primarily individual farmers. Cooperatives and production collectives account for only 7 percent of the area and 9 percent of the families while transitional organization forms are not yet expanded. Slowly implemented agricultural cooperativization will divide the classes in the rural area and fail to open the way for rapidly introducing technical advancements to production. The coordination process between transformation and construction is producing many theoretical and practical problems such as: how should planning be conducted? How should technical advances be introduced to production? How should lever policies be applied?

Advances and Difficulties

Those with the opportunity to visit this area since the day of liberation see clear advances in agricultural production. Although capital construction investment is not great but restricted and floods, insects and the southwestern border war have created obstacles, achievements have been made in all three aspects of intensive cultivation, multicropping and land clearing. A crop structure consistent with each area is beginning to be defined with little of the previous "leopard-spotted distribution." An agricultural material and technical base system is beginning to form. Multicropping is conducted on 38 percent of the annual rice growing area. Rice output has increased by 14 percent over 1976, a bumper crop year.

Beginning the 1980's, the weather is unfavorable and materials are scarce but rice output according to estimates can equal that of 1980, a bumper crop year. Industrial crops, especially soybeans, have found a proper place, do not compete with rice land and have increased 3.4 times over last year. The number of domestic animals has increased. The marketing and grasp of agricultural goods sources after a period of difficulty have for more than a year clearly changed. By September of this year, 81.9 percent of the grain level for the entire year has been mobilized, handicrafts had achieved 151 percent of the planned level, live-weight pork had achieved 67.2 percent and soybeans achieved 2.28 times over the same period last year. The state is purchasing much more beans, peanuts, eggs, chickens, ducks, tobacco, etc. The total value of agricultural products and food purchased by the Ministry of Home Trade since the beginning of this year in this area is equal to 3.37 times the same period last year, not counting price increase factors. It is clear that fairly good changes have been made in the production, distribution and circulation aspects.

However, those engaged in planning and calculating the balance nationwide are not satisfied with these figures. If compared with plans, there are many aspects not answering requirements and some worthy of concern. Rice output is only equal to last year, that is a few hundred thousand tons less than the planned level. Subsidiary food crops have achieved low levels and are developing slowly. Industrial crops have primarily achieved only low levels; even soybeans although strongly developing have only achieved 70 percent of the annual planned level.

What is the reason for this situation?

A factor easy to see is that the weather this year has been unfavorable. At the beginning of the winter-spring season, the water receded nearly 1 month late compared with the same period last year and during the best period for sowing and transplanting, the water levels were high. During the summer-fall season, serious drought occurred in the coastal area at the beginning of the season, the floods arrived early, the Ba Chang drought occurred 1 month early and the hot dry period was prolonged. The early tenth-month rice and tenth-month rice seedlings were affected by serious drought while the Tien and Hau rivers rose 45 days early and some tenth-month rice area was flooded. It is increasingly recognized that the favorable aspects of natural conditions in the Mekong River Delta have only a relative significance. A meteorologist evaluating the natural conditions of this area with agricultural production requirements chose these words to tell us, "Comparing the favorable and difficult factors, the favorable aspects are much greater for tropical crops." While the material and technical base still has insufficient strength to limit the harsh conditions of the climate, difficulties must always be calculated when supervising production and formulating plans.

But what about the subjective factors? Many locations complain that material supply does not assure planning, causing the local area and primary level units to be passive. In agricultural production development in the Mekong River Delta area, a major ideology mentioned since March 1981 is to, "develop the spirit of self-reliance of the people and of each local area at the highest level in order to overcome the overall difficulties of the entire nation, first of all difficulties in capital, materials, fuel and equipment." However, this is not to neglect the responsibility of all sectors and the entire nation to this key area. Many sectors have not carried out the plan and along with the objective difficulties have had many subjective shortcomings. By August of this year, only 47.3 percent of chemical fertilizer in the annual plan had been supplied and a factor worthy of attention is that this supply was not in keeping with the season. In February, the winter-spring rice fertilization period had ended but only 28.5 percent of the required level for the entire season had been issued. As we write this article, harvest of the summer-fall rice has ended and the tenth-month rice fertilization period has nearly ended but only one-third of the planned level of nitrate fertilizer has been issued. Phosphate is a type of fertilizer extremely needed in the Mekong River Delta and someone said that "only spread phosphate in the fields and yields are assured" but only 30 percent of the planned level has been issued. It is possible to relate many of these situations. The material and capital balance is a common difficulty of the entire nation. However, clearly transportation is mentioned by many as a key factor creating obstacles to production development. Without synchronized implementation, the expansion of agricultural production with the desired rhythm is impossible--this is the complaint and also the paramount concern of many.

Once again, it is necessary to recognize the difficulties in the program for exploiting the Mekong River Delta in accordance with a new concept right from the very first year of the third 5-year plan.

AGRICULTURE

INADEQUATE DISTRIBUTION OF FERTILIZER, INSECTICIDE DISCUSSED

Hanoi HANOI MOI in Vietnamese 15 Oct 81 p 3

[Article: "Straighten Out the Material Supplies Mess"]

[Text] In this short newspaper article, the writer will not relate [all that took place at] the conference recently held by the Agricultural Service on straightening out the material supplies mess. The main issue raised here is how to supply materials speedily, conveniently, and on time. In a narrow sense, material supplies include nitrate fertilizer, insecticide and spraying tanks, which cooperatives now urgently need. These are materials for which Hanoi depends entirely on the central echelon to supply and they are usually unavailable or come late or not in keeping with plans. But when materials are available, the problem which should be discussed is how to make them available, especially to seed producing areas.

The principal task of the Crop Seeds Corporation is to produce and purchase each year from 1,000 to 1,200 tons of seed rice and from 110 to 118 tons of vegetable seeds. With the 34 cooperatives that agree to produce the above amount of seeds, the corporation must sign contracts to supply them in reciprocity with from 170 to 180 tons of nitrate fertilizer and with more than 5 tons of insecticide. These contracts notwithstanding, the corporation carries none of these supplies, which come entirely from the Agricultural Supply Corporation of the Agricultural Service. To ensure planing on schedule, the Crop Seeds Corporation regularly sends official letters to the Agricultural Service, asking it to supply nitrate fertilizer three times a year, so that the corporation can settle debts of the previous planting season and, at the same time, make a temporary and partial advanced contribution to the following season. But usually these requests are not met in full because nitrate fertilizer arrives late and irregularly. And that is just one of many reasons. Let's look into a number of other problems. First of all, it must be affirmed that the amount of material supplies going to seed production is not very large. The city plan invests annually more than 18,000 tons of nitrate fertilizer in crops, of which only 1 percent is for seeds (180 tons), 5 percent for insecticide, and 3 percent for spraying tanks. Although it takes a tiny percentage, investment in seed production is usually not given due attention. For instance, this past January in the recent nitrate fertilizer supply phase, the Crop Seeds Corporation sent an official letter, requesting 61 tons for seed producing areas in the four old districts. The Agricultural Supply Corporation also sent an official letter down to district supply stations, asking them to supply nitrate fertilizer to seed producing cooperatives. But the corporation did not know whether or not these 61 tons of nitrate fertilizer were

sent to seed producing basic installations, because, thinking that such an official letter was enough, they investigated no further. This is a way of doing things from which experiences should be drawn.

Second, the relationships between the Agricultural Service and districts as well as cooperatives, and their ways of doing things still have unmistakable difficulties. For instance, in Dong Anh District, the planning committee manages nitrate fertilizer, instead of the agricultural committee. A vice chairman of the district agricultural committee said that the Agricultural Service has not concretely guided the plan for supplying nitrate fertilizer for vegetables and seeds. In consequence, the district itself must ensure a balanced supply of materials to seed producing areas. The important thing is that plans for supplying nitrate fertilizer must be clear and specific for each target, be it vegetables, seeds, rice, etc. Only in this way can we distinguish which targets have received enough fertilizer and which targets are still short. And also owing to the above mentioned snag, Thanh Tri District has not received the Agricultural Service's plan for distributing nitrate fertilizer. After receiving 1,900 tons of nitrate fertilizer--but not the plan for distribution to individual recipients--the district agricultural committee, on its own initiative, supplied 6 tons to Dong My Cooperative, clearly mentioning in writing that the allocation has been set aside for seed production. In spite of not having received a plan, the district agricultural committee has set technical parameters on the basis of having 1,900 tons of nitrate fertilizer. For instance, 1 kg of vegetable seeds receives an allocation of 8 kg of sulfate-nitrate fertilizer. Establishing a rationally set parameter serves as regulatory norms for cooperatives to follow. At the above meeting, the use of nitrate fertilizer in cooperatives was not discussed; nevertheless, the issue is raised here to remind cooperatives of the need for strict compliance. In general, cooperatives still use nitrate fertilizer in an unrestrained and makeshift manner, not yet concentrating on important points or supporting their main tasks. A cooperative received nitrate fertilizer for seed rice production (50 hectares), but has not used it up. Or a cooperative has been supplied nitrate fertilizer for producing vegetable seeds but used it to produce rice, etc.

Clearly, this way of doing things and of using material supplies, as we have seen, will lead to more serious shortages of supplies. So, what should be done to straighten out that mess, allowing material supplies to be promptly and conveniently supplied? Participants in the conference have proposed many remedial measures, and finally one of these was adopted: The Agricultural Service planning bureau will draw up plans for each different category of materials by area and time period, in accordance with specific norms. The districts must adhere to these plans; and, on that basis, the Agricultural Supply Corporation will distribute supplies to district supply stations (Supply Provision Enterprise) under the supervision of the district Agricultural Committee.

Norms for supplies for each category and each time period should be strictly achieved. The Rice Corporation and the district Agricultural Committee should see to it that materials be rationally supplied to seed producing areas.

All of this is just a first step; nevertheless, it reflects a concentrated and unified way of doing things, causing conditions for unceasingly improving management, control, and supervision.

HEAVY INDUSTRY AND CONSTRUCTION

POLICY FORBIDS PRIVATE USE OF ELECTRIC POWER TO MAKE ICE

Hanoi HANOI MOI in Vietnamese 22 Sep 81 p 4

[Article: "The Electric Power Service Makes and Announcement"]

[Excerpt] Scarce sources of electric power are presently inadequate for industrial and agricultural production and the minimum needs of daily life. At the direction of the Ministry of Electric Power and of Electric Power Corporation 1, the policy is not to supply electricity to any individual, collective, school, enterprise, cooperative, etc., for use in producing ice cream or ice. Electricity is only supplied for the production of ice or ice cream to specialized production installations of the State. The Hanoi Electric Power Service will conduct investigations and treat violations according to regulation.

9830

CSO: 4209/73

LIGHT INDUSTRY

MASSIVE RESIGNATION OF TECHNICAL WORKERS FROM COOPERATIVES

Hanoi HANOI MOI in Vietnamese 5 Oct 81 p 3

[Article by Minh Hoang: "Things Must Not be Allowed to Drift in Handicraft, Small Industry Production Installations"]

[Text] In recent days, in the face of difficulties in production and living conditions, good examples have been set by hundreds of cooperatives and tens of thousands of cadres, party and cooperative members who know how to develop the spirit of collective ownership and self-reliance, to initiate changes in business orientations, and to maintain and develop production. However, we cannot help but think about quite a few members of collection production installations who, tempted by personal gains, have allowed production to stall and have left the collective for outside personal work or lucrative trade. At the H.T. pottery cooperative (Gia Lam), more than 40 cadres and cooperative members have applied for resignation from the cooperative after building 40 kilns at home and getting well prepared for private business.

The "dropping out" of technical workers, especially the most skilled ones, has become beyond doubt a widespread negative phenomenon in cooperatives.

As everyone knows, promotion of handicraft industry requires, first of all, proper organization and guidance. For the entire sector to properly carry out recently proclaimed party and state policies, concentrate on stepping up production, and concretely contribute to improving distribution and circulation, and to struggling to stabilize market prices, we believe that the task of consolidating cooperatives must now be considered the most pressing one and that we must not belittle political and ideological education nor allow the positive task of organization and guidance to drift.

9213

CSO: 4209/76

TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS

WIDESPREAD BRIBERY, THEFT AT HAIPHONG PORT REPORTED

Hanoi LAO DONG in Vietnamese 8 Oct 81 p 3, 6

[Article by Thai Thuyen: "Negative Phenomena in Loading, Unloading, Delivering and Receiving Goods at Haiphong Port"]

[Text] In recent days, while grain continued to pile up as usual in Haiphong Port warehouses, Hanoi and a number of other provinces have not had enough grain for timely distribution to cadres, workers, civil servants and the people. Why that contradiction?

A fact which is evident to everyone is that transportation has stalled. To analyze the causes of that stagnancy, first of all we should see how people work at two work centers--loading and unloading at the port, and receiving goods at warehouses and grain stores.

On the morning of 17 July 1981, when we arrived at Vat Cach Port we saw 12 trucks from Goods Transportation Enterprises 4, 6 and 20 lined up outside the warehouse gate. The time was 0840 hours. The drivers told us that although most of them had been there since 0630 hours, they still were hesitating, not yet ready to drive up their trucks alongside the loading rack, because longshoremen had demanded excessive bribe money--35 dong for flatbeds and 50 dong for trailer trucks.

Later, we proceeded to the main harbor, just in time to see 2 trucks from Goods Transportation Enterprise 6 leaving warehouse 13. Wondering why these trucks were empty, we asked driver Le Ngoc Lan who said, "Enterprise 6 sent 7 trucks here to pick up sugar, but after we pulled them in the loading workers demanded bribe money--50 dong for flatbeds and 70 dong for trailers. Because of such a 'high price,' we must now go home with empty trucks to report to the vehicle dispatch station."

We then entered the warehouse where we saw 5 trucks still waiting in line while loading workers were seated shooting the breeze. We asked the warehouse custodian, a woman, "Why did these two trucks pull out instead of hauling sugar?"

She nonchalantly replied, "They refused sacks that were not full and wet sugar!"

"Do you have full sacks and dry sugar here?"

"We do."

"Why didn't you give them full sacks and dry sugar?"

"That's something the drivers must discuss with loading personnel."

"Is it true that 'discuss' means giving them a tip?"

"I don't know."

We then decided to interview some loading workers, but they steered clear of us.

Adding evidence to this fact, leading cadres of the Haiphong Grain Receipt and Deliver Corporation gave us the following data: At the end of April 1981, 30,000 tons of grain were held up at Haiphong Port; but a great many trucks sent there were unable to pick-up the grain because drivers had no bribe money for loading workers.

It can be said that demanding bribe for loading and unloading at Haiphong Port takes place at its warehouses and loading racks on a widespread and regular basis. Haiphong Port leading cadres are striving to devise effective measures by strengthening management and consolidating the organization so as to gradually overcome these negative phenomena, and are doing their utmost to unceasingly boost loading and unloading capabilities.

We think that it is necessary to study ways to rationally improve both policy and procedures toward loading workers in order to create a basis for altering the work pattern at Haiphong Port.

The routine of weighing, measuring, delivering and receiving goods at warehouses, grain stations and stores does cry out for review. First of all, there is an irrationality which has persisted for years--at pickup points, goods are delivered in sacks, but at receiving points, they are delivered in kilos, instead.

To illustrate this, we cite below some data provided by Goods Transportation Enterprise 4: In the second quarter of 1981, grain wastes and losses during transportation at this enterprise ran to 25,437 kg. Of this amount, the drivers were charged for 4,652 kg, however, records on reception of goods at warehouses and stores attributed responsibility for the remainder--20,787 kg--to no one; in other words, the drivers did not have to pay, the owners of these means of transportation (Transportation Enterprise) did not have to pay either, and Haiphong Port was not held responsible for the losses. As a result, the state must stand the loss of 20,785 kg of grain. After looking closely into the case, we could not help raising this question, "In fact, were these wastes and losses true as recorded?"

Data, documentary evidence and records on goods quality control show the following:

From 2 July 1981 through 7 July 1981, Goods Transportation Enterprise 4 sent 34 trucks to haul grain from Haiphong Port to the Hanoi Grain Service. Of this fleet, 20 trucks delivered grain to Doc La warehouse in Yen Vien; 8 trucks delivered to the Sai Dong bakery and 6 trucks delivered to Xuan Quang store. Each of the above places used its own weighing and measuring method. Doc La warehouse weighed a 15 percent sample, the Sai Dong bakery weighed a 30 percent sample. Xuan Quang store weighed the entire shipment.

Use of partial weighing to check the total weight of a shipment is just an estimate. This way of calculating was practiced during the war owing to lack of conditions for accurate weighing and measuring. But it is now irrational to persist in using it. It can be said that this is an arbitrary way of doing business--a way that created loopholes in management work. In addition to methods of weighing and measuring while delivering and receiving goods, the way with which records confirming the quality of goods were written also raised doubts. For instance, of 20 records confirming the quality of goods at Doc La warehouse, 14 were entirely identical in terms of wording, "Sample weighing, 15 percent, each sack is .7 kg underweight, multiplied by 150 sacks, the entire shipment is 75 kg underweight. Sacks are intact."

All records on confirming the quality of goods included the names of drivers, warehouse custodians and representatives of loading workers.

At the Sai Dong bakery, of 8 records on confirming the quality of goods as many as 5 were entirely identical, "Sample weighing, 30 percent; on the average each sack is 1.1 kg underweight, multiplied by 150 sacks, the entire shipment is 165 kg underweight. Sacks are intact."

The above notation incited us to raise another question, "Why did losses differ strangely from one truck to another? More strange is that despite the losses "sacks are intact"! This way of writing records clearly amounted to holding no one responsible for the losses and to leaving the state holding the bag! We have also learned that while delivering goods the drivers are much concerned about being held responsible for losses by warehouse custodians. If the records say that sacks are torn, or sewing threads are broken, etc., the drivers must make up any loss. That is why while delivering goods drivers pay most attention to attribution of responsibilities, and simply ignore the size of the losses. The reason is that, in fact, misdeeds committed by some drivers--slitting sacks open to steal rice and noodle--are passed up by warehouse custodians with the assertion, "Sacks are intact!" (sic!).

Now, we raise another hypothesis: If the losses do not really take place as recorded, who stands to gain from the surplus? The Warehouse custodians, of course!

The bad practice of demanding bribe while loading and unloading has had a sizable impact on transportation. Arbitrary weighing and measuring while delivering and receiving goods has contributed to considerable losses of state grain.

We hope that responsible organs clearly see negative phenomena at the two main components of the grain transportation system, so as to promptly take the most effective steps to gradually eliminate the old work pattern, create a new one, and strive to unceasingly increase loading, unloading and transportation capabilities.

9213

CSO: 4209/66

FND

END OF

FICHE

DATE FILMED

Dec. 16, 1981

